

## CLAIMS

1. A method for operating an automatic transmission in a motor vehicle, wherein downshiftings are carried out during a compression braking operation, which continues up to the attainment of a predetermined threshold speed and by the closure of a clutch placed between a vehicle drive motor and the transmission, the downshiftings are terminated, characterized by a feature of the method, that at speeds less than the said threshold value, downshiftings are terminated with an open clutch.

2. A method in accord with claim 1, therein characterized, in that the downshiftings during a continually open clutch, can only be carried out, if a reasonably great probability exists, that the driver has a desire for a positive drive torque as well as desiring uninterrupted travel.

3. A method in accord with claim 2, therein characterized, in that the desire for a positive drive torque is determined by an indicator.

4. A method in accord with claim 3, therein characterized, in that as an indicator for the desire for a positive drive torque, the following can be used: the release of the operative brakes, the deflection of an activation lever for the direction of travel, as well as the steering angle of the vehicle steering mechanism.

5. A method in accord with claim 4, therein characterized, in that the presence of a drivers desire for a positive drive torque is determined by means of an overstepping of the steering angle as compared to a predetermined steering angle.

6. A method in accord with at least one of the foregoing claims, therein characterized, that for the determination of the probability of the driver's wish for a positive torque, two or more of the named or other indicators can be used in common.

7. A method in accord with at least one of the foregoing claims, therein characterized, in that compression downshifting cannot be carried out if operational brakes are activated.

8. A method in accord with at least one of the foregoing claims, therein characterized, in that the clutch for the termination of the compression operation can only be closed, when the power control member of the motor vehicle is activated.

9. A method in accord with at least one of the foregoing claims, therein characterized, in that the engagement of the starting gear of the automatic transmission at the end of the compression phase always terminates with an open clutch.

10. A method in accord with at least one of the foregoing claims, therein characterized, in that gear jumps during the transmission downshifting during a compression phase are selected with dependence on the vehicle deceleration.

11. A method in accord with at least one of the foregoing claims, therein characterized, in that with these, an automatized shifting transmission is operable.